SUPPLEMENT
NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION
# Information Letter
FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

No. 115 WASHINGTON, D. C. June 6, 1925

## Report of the Secretary and Treasurer to the Board of Directors

May 26, 1925

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION:

A comparison of the membership, both in number and cases, will show the increasing strength of the National Canners Association during the past year.

In May, 1924, the total membership was 598, representing 53,108,103 cases, which included 46,350,316 cases of seasonal and 6,757,787 cases of non-seasonal products. In May, 1925, the total membership is 721, representing a total pack of 63,789,389 cases, of which 57,056,623 cases are seasonal and 6,732,766 cases are non-seasonal. This represents a gain of close to 20 per cent in output and 25 per cent in members.

The membership in the different states, territories and foreign countries is as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alabama | 2 | Missouri | 6 |
| Alaska | 1 | Montana | 1 |
| Arkansas | 2 | Nebraska | 2 |
| California | 72 | New Jersey | 29 |
| Colorado | 2 | New York | 71 |
| Connecticut | 3 | North Carolina | 1 |
| Delaware | 12 | Ohio | 32 |
| Florida | 7 | Oregon | 22 |
| Georgia | 10 | Pennsylvania | 10 |
| Hawaii | 9 | Porto Rico | 2 |
| Illinois | 35 | South Carolina | 2 |
| Indiana | 49 | Tennessee | 11 |
| Iowa | 19 | Texas | 6 |
| Kansas | 1 | Utah | 17 |
| Kentucky | 6 | Vermont | 1 |
| Louisiana | 2 | Virginia | 47 |
| Maine | 42 | Washington | 33 |
| Maryland | 27 | Wisconsin | 79 |
| Massachusetts | 7 | Canada | 3 |
| Michigan | 19 | Mexico | 1 |
| Minnesota | 13 | | |
| Mississippi | 5 | Total | 721 |

The report of the audit company on the Treasurer's books as of May 1, 1925, shows that the Association has on hand in its general fund $24,277.25, of which $10,000 is invested in U. S. Treasury notes. This report also shows that there is in the reserve fund $43,000 invested in U. S. Treasury notes.

The adjustment of the Research Laboratory's expense June 1st will show an increase in cash assets of more than $20,000.

The fixed assets of the Association, as shown by the report of the audit company at the Cincinnati convention, were $82,637.20, which is the inventory at cost. If the appreciation of the real estate owned by the Association was shown in these figures, they would be considerably larger.

This introductory statement needs no special comment, but it must be satisfactory to the membership of the Association.

No report can give an adequate picture of the intimate daily service that the Association renders for its members. Canners are constantly confronted with all kinds of problems that give the Association an opportunity to assist them. These services can not well be reported under particular heads, but they take a large part of the employees' time and when satisfactorily performed they mean constantly added good-will for the Association.

As the Association is thus engaged in no one particular service, but in a combination of services touching all phases of the industry, this report is necessarily confined to the outstanding features.

## President Trego

President Trego, since taking office, has given practically all of his time to Association work. Since the Cincinnati convention he has made numerous trips, attending meetings of different kinds which demanded his presence.

His trip to the Pacific coast, made in late February and early March, was particularly productive of good results. He met with canners in Ogden, Utah, Seattle, Washington, Portland, Oregon, and San Francisco and Los Angeles, California. He made addresses at the annual convention of the Canners League of California at Del Monte and also appeared before a large meeting in Los Angeles. His trip resulted not only in a better understanding and increased good-will for the Association, but in an increase in membership as well.

## Code of Ethics

The January meeting of the Board of Directors authorized the Committee on the Code of Ethics to send its report to each member of the Board of Directors. Owing to unavoidable de-

lays, it has just been possible to get this report to the Board and some of the Directors have made the requested comment direct to President Trego. The adoption of this Code of Ethics will go before the Directors in the regular course of business.

### Membership Directory

The Membership Directory which was to have been issued in March has not yet been published because of the delay in the preparation and adoption of the Code of Ethics, which is to be incorporated in the Directory. All of the other material for the Directory is prepared and with the adoption of the Code of Ethics, the publication will immediately be sent to press.

### Canned Foods Week

The fourth and most successful Canned Foods Week was held November 8th to 15th, 1924, and a report of this was made by Chairman Anderson at the Cincinnati Convention.

During the meeting of the Conference Committee with the Wholesale Grocers Association at that convention, it developed that these distributors felt that Canned Foods Week, in order to be successful, should have the wholehearted support of the entire canning industry, and that it would be necessary for the industry to evidence this support in order to have the project endorsed by the distributors in the future.

President Trego called a meeting of representatives of the State Associations in Chicago on March 27th, 1925, at which the situation was fully discussed. It was decided to make a personal appeal to the canners through State Associations, asking a contribution of $1 per thousand cases from each canner. Nearly all of the State Associations have handled this in the manner requested, and the decision as to whether or not Canned Foods Week will be continued depends on the action taken at this meeting of the Board of Directors.

### Canned Foods Foundation

The Cincinnati Convention adopted a resolution requesting the National Canners Association to invite trade organizations to appoint two members each to serve on a joint committee to formulate a plan for establishing, financing and operating a Canned Foods Foundation.

The object of this foundation is to foster and support a continuous national educational campaign to disseminate information to the general public regarding the products of the canning industry.

President Trego appointed James Moore and Royal F. Clark as the two members to represent the National Canners Association. The National Wholesale Grocers Association, the American Wholesale Grocers Association, the National Association of Retail Grocers, the Canning Machinery and Supplies Association and the National Food Brokers Association also appointed committees consisting of two members each, carrying out the spirit of this resolution.

The accomplishments so far of this joint committee will be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors by Mr. James Moore, representing the National Canners Association.

### Investigation of Consumer Complaints

There have been 91 investigations conducted during the period of January 1, 1925, to May 20, 1925. These cases may be classified as follows in comparison with the same period for 1924.

| | *1924* | *1925* |
|---|---|---|
| Fruits | 10 | 15 |
| Vegetables | 33 | 42 |
| Seafoods | 15 | 22 |
| Soups and condiments | 7 | 5 |
| Meat products | 2 | 2 |
| Olives | 0 | 1 |
| Milk | 2 | 0 |
| Plum pudding | 1 | 0 |
| Unidentified | 1 | 4 |
| Total | 71 | 91 |

There have been 29 investigations of complaints for alleged illness or injury due to foreign matter contained in canned food, as compared with 15 complaints for the same period last pear. During this same period there have been 18 suits filed in connection with these cases.

### Special Work With Physicians

Special letters have been written to physicians connected with food poisoning cases, whenever it appeared that we had information that would be of interest to them. An address by Dr. M. J. Rosenau of Harvard Medical School on the relation of foods to certain ailments has been reprinted and is being sent to physicians, authors and others interested.

### Correction of Literature

Besides taking up with newspaper editors the correction of misstatements relative to alleged cases of food poisoning involving canned foods, the Association has written a number of letters to authors of books and magazine articles wherein canned

foods were misrepresented. Without exception, these letters have apparently been well received and in most cases were acknowledged with appreciation.

### Food Law Enforcement Matters

Considerable work, including joint examinations with the Bureau of Chemistry, has been done in connection with seizure cases. In some cases this has meant the saving of a large proportion of a condemned product. While such cases are always difficult to handle and the results may not appear to justify the amount of time and expense involved, nevertheless our members have generally appreciated the importance of finding out just what the conditions were which led to seizure of their product, so that they could act intelligently to avoid further trouble in the future. It is also desirable in such cases where a large amount of property is involved to have the work of the food officials checked by some other laboratory. The Association has endeavored to keep its members posted on new food laws and regulations.

### Coding

The adoption of a coding system to differentiate different day's packs or batches of canned foods is again urged upon all canners. We are continually having concrete instances when the installation of some coding device, the cost of which is relatively insignificant, would have meant the easy solution of some canning problem perplexing a canner or the saving of hundreds of dollars' worth of canned foods.

### Laboratory Research

Among problems now being worked on by the Research Laboratory—including both fundamental research and application of its findings to practical cannery operation—are the processing of tomatoes, sardines and asparagus; perforations; and the vitamin content of canned foods.

The results obtained in the experimental studies of the processing of tomatoes and sardines conducted in 1924, have been correlated and studied. A preliminary report regarding the canning of tomatoes was read at the Cincinnati convention, and a preliminary statement regarding the results obtained with sardines has been given to sardine packers.

As a result of the asparagus studies conducted in 1924, tentative suggestions have been made to asparagus packers regarding the process that should be employed with this product.

Additional studies are now being made on all of these products, to check the results of 1924, and to obtain more data regarding the influence on the quality of the products of the processes suggested. This is one of the essential features of all the processing investigations conducted by the Research Laboratory. As soon as it is determined what time of processing is necessary at various temperatures to secure adequate sterilization, experimental packs are put up under these conditions in order to determine their relative influence on the quality of the finished product. The ideal which the laboratory always has in mind is to suggest a process which is sufficient for sterilization, convenient and practicable in its operation, which preserves the nutritive value of the food, and which yields a product that has the desired appearance and flavor.

### Work on Perforations

Recent work of the Research Laboratory has further confirmed its earlier suggestion that the coloring matter in certain fruits is an important factor in the perforation of the cans. The situation with regard to perforation, is, therefore, vastly more complex than was formerly supposed. It is still hoped, however, that a further study of this question will result in an understanding of the causes of perforation, which will lead to its control.

### Vitamin Studies

The vitamin investigations have been extended to peas, peaches, and corn. Canned peas have been shown to be rich in all three of the well-known vitamins, and it has been shown that the canning operation is not nearly so destructive of the antiscorbutic vitamins as is the ordinary method of cooking the peas in the home. Moreover, warming canned peas in an open kettle, as is done before serving them, does not reduce the amount of antiscorbutic vitamin.

Two teaspoonfuls of canned peas per day supply more of the antiscorbutic vitamin than is required by a human being. Canned peaches were also found to be so rich in Vitamin C that one-half peach per day would supply more of that vitamin than necessary to maintain the health of an adult. Canned peaches were found to contain about four times as much antiscorbutic vitamin as home cooked peaches prepared from the raw product. Similar investigations with corn are under way.

Our vitamin investigations have now reached such a stage that we are warranted in making the general statement that vitamins A and B are not destroyed to an appreciable extent by

the canning operation, and that vitamin C (the antiscorbutic vitamin) is retained in much larger quantity in canned food than in the same food prepared from the raw state and cooked by the usual kitchen methods.

### Laboratory Service to Individual Members

The first four months of the current year represent a period in which the least number of samples are sent by our members to the Research Laboratory. During this period, however, 103 such samples were analyzed, something more than one sample per working day. This number includes only those that required more or less laboratory examination. Many other samples were received which required cursory inspection only and were, therefore, not indexed. Such samples, however, also were given attention and were discussed in letters to the canners sending them.

The correspondence of the laboratory regarding technical matters has greatly increased with the development of our work. During the first four months of the present year, 1,043 letters and telegrams were written by the laboratory, of which 479 referred to technical matters. A large proportion of the letters written were long and involved, so that much more time and care were necessary in their preparation than is true of the majority of correspondence. Frequently it is necessary to make a study of our records, or other literature, or to consult with one of the Government laboratories, in order to obtain the desired information.

The 479 letters on technical subjects mentioned above do not include the very large number of letters which may be placed in the information class, and which are merely notes making brief suggestions or transmitting bulletins, circulars, or other printed matter, sent in reply to specific requests for information.

### Standardization of Tin Plate

The Committee on Standardization of Tin Plate for Canners' Cans has continued its efforts since the January meeting of the Association, and has been able to clear away some of the misunderstanding that has prevailed on the part of manufacturers of both cans and tin plate.

Work has been carried on in preparing for the prospective conference between manufacturers of tin plate, can manufacturers and canners relative to the specifications for tin sheet steel drawn up by a sub-committee of the Government Budget Bureau. Dr. Elwell has been in conference with the sub-committee, and the services of the Director of the Research Depart-

ment of a large state university have been secured to assist in developing information bearing upon the various items in the specifications of the Budget. A formal statement has also been drawn up embodying the views of the canners regarding the whole situation for presentation at the conference on behalf of the canners and other users of tin plate.

This report would go more into detail except for the fact that Dr. Elwell, Chairman of the Tin Plate Committee, will make a report to the Board.

### Chicago University Research

Dr. E. O. Jordan reports continued progress in his studies on bacteria of the paratyphoid, proteus and botulinus groups—the three classes of organisms which are held responsible for outbreaks of food poisoning. Two articles on this subject have appeared in the Journal of Infectious Diseases and another is to appear shortly. One of these articles covers substantially the same ground as that of Dr. Jordan's address at Cincinnati. Studies of soil samples from different localities are being continued with interesting and valuable results.

In connection with Doctor Jordan's work on the paratyphoid group of bacteria, it is interesting that two recent outbreaks of paratyphoid were attributed to canned corn, though it is well established that the paratyphoid organisms are readily killed at a boiling temperature and this corn was processed at 250° F. The contamination of the food must, therefore, have occurred after the cans were opened. Dr. Jordan and our Research Laboratory are cooperating in a further investigation of these two outbreaks.

Dr. Jordan is also working on some questions raised by Dr. Savage in England, in which it was suggested that toxins formed in canned foods by the paratyphoid group of bacteria are sometimes left intact by the canning operation, although the bacteria themselves are destroyed.

### Congress Increases Funds for Agricultural Research

The most important happening of the year in the field of agricultural research was the passage of the Purnell Bill by the last Congress. This measure triples the Federal support to the Experimental Stations. The amount increases yearly until 1929 when the Purnell Act appropriation reaches the maximum of $2,880,000 per year. While the increased funds made available probably will not in any large measure be expended on research relating directly to the canning industry, the stimulus to additional studies will nevertheless be felt in every agricultural ex-

periment station. In at least one important canning state the announcement already has been made that the additional funds will be devoted chiefly to research in connection with the various problems of the canning industry.

In New York State the legislature appropriated $20,500 to the Agricultural Experiment Station to be used on projects related to canning crops production. A committee from the station, with an advisory group from the local canners association and the Director of the National Canners Association Raw Products Bureau, is assisting in working out plans for the New York State work.

The Indiana Experiment Station, under a grant from the seed committee of the Indiana Canners Association, is organizing additional research having for its object the study of factors affecting tomato quality. Tomato fertilizers and soil requirements are likewise being studied under a graduate fellowship financed by a large fertilizer manufacturer.

### Raw Products Service, Direct and Indirect

A very important part of the work of the Raw Products Bureau is the indirect service represented by the Bureau's contacts with the Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations and with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In the past year the conferences with groups of agricultural research workers in various institutions and the field studies of canning crops involved a total of approximately five months' time in the field by the Director of the Bureau.

While the primary purpose of the Bureau is to promote research in canning crops improvement through the scientific agencies mentioned, it is of interest to note that the direct service to members on technical questions relating to crop production is increasing rapidly, having practically doubled in the past year.

### Pea Seed Survey

Information on seed pea production gathered in the Northwest last summer was of such interest to canners that there was a strong demand for continuation of the studies this season. Accordingly, arrangements have been practically completed for an intensive study of Alaska seed stocks and seed production in the Northwest in late June and early July.

### Seed Trade Conference

On the invitation of the U. S. Department of Commerce a conference will be held May 28 to consider whether any steps may be taken to improve the seed situation. The Department

has invited representatives of the seed trade, of the canning industry, of the market garden and truck industries, and of the Department of Agriculture, to take part in the discussions. The initiative taken by the Department of Commerce undoubtedly opens the way for more constructive cooperation of all interests in improvement of seed.

### Bridging the Gap Between Experiment Station and Commercial Seedsman

One of the important steps which must be taken in the near future is the bridging of the gap between the Experiment Station and the commercial seedsmen. How the small lots of seed resulting from the intensive breeding work of the station may be multiplied to commercial quantities, and the integrity and purity of the strain preserved during the multiplication process, is a problem which challenges the best thought of canner, seedsman, and agricultural scientist.

The same need for "bridging the gap" exists with respect to many other lines of agricultural research work. The Raw Products Bureau is often able to interpret for canners the results of research in terms of canning crops practice, thus hastening the large-scale commercial use of improved methods.

### Raw Products Research Affects Many Commodities

Agricultural research having a direct bearing on improvement in quality and yield, and in reducing the cost and hazard of production is in progress in most of the important canning states, and relates to all classes of products.

### Distribution Survey

The Association has discussed informally with representatives of the Foodstuffs Division of the U. S. Department of Commerce and with the U. S. Department of Agriculture the possibility of making a systematic survey of consumer demand for canned foods.

### Weekly Information Letter

Since April 25 the Information Letter has been issued in printed form. The change, suggested by various members of the Association, was made by President Trego as an experiment to ascertain the wishes of the membership. Practically all who have expressed an opinion in response to our request for criticisms and suggestions have approved the new form. To print the Letter costs more and requires additional work. If the new form is permanently adopted, an index will appear semiannually

in one of the regular issues, so that those maintaining a file of the Letters may easily find any topic mentioned in them. There can also be carried into effect the suggestion that the Letters be punched so that they can be filed in standard ring binders.

A cumulative index of the mimeographed letters issued up to the end of 1924 has been sent to all members of the Association.

### Distribution of Bulletin on Vitamins in Canned Foods

The bulletin on vitamins in canned foods is being given an effective distribution. Teachers and nurses should be fully informed about canned foods, especially regarding their nutritive value and content, and this information should be in the hands of those giving food instruction.

To reach the teachers of home economics, and the students in home economics courses who will be the teachers of tomorrow, a copy of the vitamin bulletin was sent to the head of the domestic science or home economics department in each of the 110 colleges in the country that have a four-year course in these subjects. Additional copies were offered to supply instructors and for library use. The response has been very gratifying, and a number of teachers have written commending the book.

A copy of the bulletin was also sent to the superintendent of each of 1,500 hospitals in the country that maintain an accredited nurses' training school. Additional copies for instructors in these schools and for their libraries were likewise offered, with the result that request for copies are constantly being received.

Further distribution of the bulletin to public libraries is planned, with letters to librarians suggesting the value of the book to domestic science students, women's clubs, etc.

### Pea Bulletin

The recent bulletin on canned peas is the fourth in a series of popular bulletins, the earlier ones covering fruits, tomatoes and tomato products, and corn. These pamphlets have proved quite useful in answering enquiries from housewives, teachers and students for information respecting canning and the products of the commercial canning industry.

### Census of Canning Industry

The Census Bureau has again permitted us to issue, in advance of their publication by the Bureau, the returns of the biennial census of manufactures on canned foods. The bulletin sent

to the Association's membership contained, besides the figures for 1923, a comparative summary for 1921 and 1923. Preparation of this summary brought out changes made in the Bureau's schedule for 1923 and indicated that other changes may be desirable in the Bureau's schedule to be used next year in collecting reports for 1925. Figures compiled by the Census Bureau should furnish a continuous record of at least the important products. Changes that the industry may desire in the schedule for 1925 should be taken up as soon as practicable with the Bureau.

### Association's Statistics

The Association has been able to compile satisfactory statictics on the annual pack of peas and corn, and berry statistics were collected last year for the first; but the experience with tomatoes has been disappointing. Many tomato canners failed to cooperate, making the compilation of satisfactory figures quite difficult and causing embarrassing delay as well as criticism of the Association. The question of continuing the statistical work on tomatoes, if individual canners fail to cooperate, is a matter for the Board's consideration.

### New Booklet on Canning

There is now ready for printing an illustrated popular booklet on canned foods which will meet the requests constantly reaching us from teachers, students, housewives and others desiring authentic information on the canning industry and its products. The recipes included are such as can be conveniently and economically utilized in the average home.

### Cost Accounting Bulletin

The Association's stock of its bulletin on cost accounting, which was last revised and republished in 1920, has been exhausted for some time. The frequent requests now received for this bulletin can not be met, and its republication seems advisable. It is recommended that when republished the bulletin be revised by a special committee appointed by President Trego, this committee to be large enough to be representative of the industry.

### Need of Photographs

The Association needs a more extensive collection than it now possesses of photographs suitable for illustrating articles on the canning industry and its products. Requests for such pictures are frequently received, and the Association should be in position to meet these requests and gain the helpful publicity their use will provide. If members of the Association would

contribute to our collection photographs of their plants, manufacturing operations, and products, they would aid greatly in securing desirable publicity for the industry.

### Convention Publicity

Few journals outside these devoted exclusively to the canning industry are able to reproduce the many and varied addresses at the Association's annual convention. However, there are always addresses containing material of interest to food journals, woman's magazines, papers published in the interest of distributors, etc.; and at the last convention we furnished a selected list of these publications with the press releases. That this service was appreciated and productive of results is evidenced by letters we have received and by the appearance of various addresses, in whole or in part, in a number of journals that otherwise would not have carried the material.

### Home Economics

The establishment of a Division of Home Economics seems to be fated with uncertainty that it is hoped can soon be overcome. The need for this kind of work is more and more apparent and it is indeed with regret that more substantial progress can not be reported.

### Traffic Committee

Since the last meeting of the Board, the following freight rate questions have received the attention of Chairman De Pass and his committee.

Revision of Class Rates, Eastern Territory,—Hearing February 10th at Chicago, Ill.

Freight Rates on Empty Cans, Central Freight Association Territory to Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan—Hearing February 10, at Chicago, Ill.

Proposed Changes in Freight Rates in official classification territory on Canned Fish and Fruit—Hearing February 25th, at Washington, D. C.

Proposed increase carload rates, points in Illinois rate territory and Western Trunk Line Territory—Proposal withdrawn and docketed for later hearing.

Freight rates from Mobile, Ala., to Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio and Illinois—Rates found unreasonable.

Freight rates on canned foods from Wisconsin and St. Paul to Lower Mississippi Valley—Rates found unreasonable. Reopening and rehearing asked.

Changes in canned food freight rates, Ogden and Salt Lake City to Oklahoma points suspended—Hearing May 8th, at Salt Lake City, Utah.

Changes in Freight Rates, Minnesota and Wisconsin to Canadian points and Eastern Seaboard further suspended—Hearing May 20th, at Chicago, Ill.

Constant attention is required to keep abreast of these many proposals of changes in the rate structure applying to canned food products. While the Association fully recognizes the fact that transportation companies must receive sufficient income, it also realizes that increases in freight rates on canned foods tend to increase the cost to consumers. Therefore, the Traffic Committee is keeping in touch with, and protesting, all proposed advances in freight rates.

### Income Taxes

Assistance in meeting the complex problems arising in connection with income tax matters is given by the Association. In an unusual number of instances lately, service along this line has been rendered.

### Foreign Trade

Department of Commerce statistics for the past nine months show a marked increase in exports of certain canned foods, notably corn, peas, peaches, pears and sardines, as compared with the same period a year ago. On the other hand, exports of some canned foods, especially tomatoes, have shown a decrease, due in part to the increased competition with the Italian industry, which has taken on new life since the war.

In case of imports, a very marked increase is shown in the imports of tomatoes during the past eight months as compared with the same period a year ago, importations of this product being more than doubled. A considerable increase is also shown in the importation of sardines in oil.

The import and export figures are summarized in the following tables:

| Imports | Eight Months Ending—March, 1924 | Eight Months Ending—March, 1925 |
|---|---|---|
| | *Pounds* | *Pounds* |
| Peas | 1,321,907 | 1,518,501 |
| Tomatoes | 26,547,764 | 56,479,452 |
| Tomato paste and other tomato products | ..... | 21,348,225 |
| Other vegetables | 3,081,608 | 4,451,971 |
| Sardines in oil | 15,512,200 | 19,011,527 |

| Exports | Nine Months Ending—March, 1924 | Nine Months Ending—March, 1925 |
|---|---|---|
| | *Pounds* | *Pounds* |
| Asparagus | 4,739,915 | 5,102,311 |
| Beans | 5,250,962 | 4,364,039 |
| Corn | 3,078,350 | 4,088,881 |
| Peas | 3,191,225 | 4,533,257 |
| Tomatoes | 8,090,846 | 4,585,096 |
| Peaches | 43,715,089 | 53,267,844 |
| Apricots | 21,465,444 | 21,963,801 |
| Pears | 35,914,766 | 52,970,936 |
| Pineapple | 20,457,092 | 22,366,800 |
| Salmon | 51,128,256 | 55,488,800 |
| Sardines | 32,786,535 | 44,679,167 |

The Foodstuffs Division of the Department of Commerce as well as the other bureaus of that Department are very anxious to assist the canning industry in the promotion of foreign trade, and canners should not hesitate to avail themselves of the services afforded by that department.

### Customs Cases

The canning industry is vitally interested in the interpretation of the tariff law as it affects canned foods. Cases are constantly coming before the Board of General Appraisers concerning which the industry should be advised in order that it may take such steps as may be necessary to protect the industry's interests. In the last few months such cases have involved the rates of duty on imported cherries, pimientos and pineapple. Thus far no system has been devised by which the Association may be advised of these cases in time to bring them to the industry's attention, but the Assistant Attorney General in the Customs Division is now working out a system of notifying trade associations, and when this is perfected we shall be enabled to inform members promptly of cases in which they will be interested.

### Adjustment Committee

To this committee has been assigned the work of reviewing records of production, sales and deliveries under the pro-rata clause of sales contracts, whenever such review is requested. Upon findings of the committee certificates of justifiable short deliveries are based.

### Definitions and Standards

The Committee on Definitions and Standards, under the chairmanship of Mr. Merritt Greene, has taken up the subject in a broad national way and Mr. Greene will make a preliminary report to the Board at this meeting.

### Fibre Containers

At the request of the Division of Simplified Practice, Department of Commerce, this Association was represented at a conference in New York City to consider the reduction in the number of thicknesses of fibre board used in making fibre containers. As this proposed simplification does not in any way affect fibre shipping containers which are covered by specifications established by the various traffic associations, it appears that this is not a subject that directly affects the canning industry.

## 1926 Convention

The Location Committee for the 1926 Convention has not yet completed its task, although it has held several meetings and the desirability of the different invitations has been discussed. No one can realize the work and responsibility of this committee except those who have been members of it. When it is considered that 22 cities extended invitations for the 1926 convention the task of the committee can be somewhat appreciated.

## Canned Foods Exhibits

Exhibits and demonstrations of canned foods have been held in connection with the Annual Conventions at Atlantic City, Louisville, Buffalo and Cincinnati. These have experienced a progressive improvement, with the last one being more nearly representative of the entire industry and noted for its large attendance as well as fine exhibits.